

# Fact Sheet



June 20, 2002

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## A Park at Taylor Yard

### How the Movement to Create a Park at Taylor Yard Began

More than a decade ago, residents from the neighborhoods and communities surrounding Taylor Yard began asking that Taylor Yard become a park, recreation and open space site, instead of an industrial site. In 2000, more than 38 different community groups and organizations formed the Coalition for a State Park at Taylor Yard. The Coalition fought, went to court and prevailed in their effort to save the land from continued industrial development. They were joined by elected officials at every level and their voices were heard loud and clear. In June 2000, Governor Gray Davis designated the area as a future park site and included it in his Urban Parks Strategy. The Governor also committed \$45 million of Proposition 12 funds to State Parks for its acquisition. In December 2001, State Parks made its first acquisition, purchasing a 30-acre parcel known as D-1. .

### What Happens Now – A Series of Public Meetings

The State Department of Parks and Recreation is inviting the public, along with city, county and state officials, to attend and take part in a series of public meetings regarding the future use and development of Taylor Yard as a State Park. The first meeting is being held Thursday, June 20, 2002, from 7 to 9 PM, in the auditorium at Glassell Park Elementary School, 2221 West Avenue 30, Los Angeles, CA. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled with the input of stakeholders concerned.

### State Parks and Community Begin Shared Vision

“This shared vision process begins on the night of our first meeting,” said Acting State Parks Director Ruth Coleman. “People from the community surrounding Taylor Yard have been eyeing this property for years, wishing that it could be transformed into a place of beauty and recreation to enhance and improve their neighborhoods. Our job now is help them do just that, by beginning a process of listening to their dreams and making a plan for turning this brown field into a multiple-use place for the public.”

## **A Public Process Every Step of the Way**

The primary purpose of the first meeting is to receive the public's help in planning the interim public use improvements on the park site in order to open up some use of the site as soon as possible. State Parks presently has \$1 million dollars set aside for the interim public use improvements. After the initial public uses are decided, State Parks will be engaging the public in a long term planning process for the site. State Parks is committed to involving the public at every step of the way in this process and will be reaching out to all stakeholders in order to form partnerships in a joint planning effort for the future use of Taylor Yard.

## **History of State Parks in Los Angeles County**

State Parks has a history and long commitment to Los Angeles. There are 28 state park units in the County, providing over 32,000 acres of public parklands. The oldest of these state park units is Pio Pico State Historic Park, created in 1917, and the largest being Topanga State Parks with more than 1,600 acres of open space and recreational area. Some of the others include Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, Leo Carrillo State Park, Santa Monica State Beach, Will Rogers State Historic Park, Dockweiler State Beach and the newly acquired Cornfields project.

## **Acquiring Additional Parcels of Taylor Yard**

The planning process now getting underway specifically relates to parcel D-1, approximately 30 acres, which was purchased by State Parks in December 2001. State Parks is also negotiating to purchase parcel D-2, 10 acres, and is hoping to acquire parcel G, approximately 62 acres, for a total of about 102 acres.

## **Enhancing Neighborhoods and the Environment for the Future**

The Los Angeles Times called Taylor Yard a “ruined industrial tract that has become a field of dreams for a community.” State Parks believes that statement captures the very essence of the future potential for this site. The intent now is to engage the community in a series of meetings and workshops that will result in a variety of mixed-use proposals. Some of the potential uses for the land include: a network of walking and bicycle trails, picnic areas, recreational fields and open space, natural areas for habitat and wetlands, and historic places. Taylor Yard has more than two miles of riverfront and many believe this property is the linchpin for the creation of a Los Angeles River Parkway and could profoundly impact the enhancement of the neighborhoods surrounding this site.

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